

## RESTRAINTS FOR LUNATICS.

## DOCTORS DESCRIBING THE METHODS OF INSANE ASYLUMS.

The Crib, the Camisole, and the Wristlets—Occupations of the Patients—How the Commissioners Administer their Trusts. The questions of the Senate Committee investigating insane asylum management relate chiefly to the use of mechanical restraints, the employment of patients, and the character of the administration. Every witness having had experience in the asylums or opportunities of observation is asked about the crib, which is simply a bedstead with sides and a slatted cover, so as to confine patients placed thereon to a recumbent position.

Yesterday Dr. Thomas M. Franklin, Superintendent of Blackwell's Island Asylum, told the committee that he had four cribs in his institution, and wished he had more. He regarded them as necessary for suicidal patients and those who were so troublesome that they would not go to bed. Some patients would stand nearly all of twenty-four hours unless put in the crib. The crib was much more comfortable than the ordinary cabin berth of a steamboat. He did not put violent cases in the crib, for they were safer in mechanical appliances more closely restraining their movements. Dr. Parsons, formerly Superintendent at Blackwell's Island, had used the camisole, wristlets, and the crib for purposes of restraint. He did not think the crib was used, save in the case of one patient, who was bound by a doctor or a nurse for two weeks, and then had been confined in bed by keeping down the feet by bars and the hand wrists. Dr. James T. Kiernan, formerly an assistant physician at the City Asylum, reported the same methods of restraint as having been employed there. The crib was introduced in 1860, and has been used ever since. It was possible that its use tended to injure patients. Several patients were kept in cribs for long periods, and they generally had the camisole on. Dr. Parsons said that the camisole was used at Madison's lunatic asylum, and had been discharged by him. He declared that it was on account of a paper he read before the Neurological Society, and that it was introduced by Dr. Parsons and Dr. Alan McLane Hamilton. Dr. Hamilton, formerly of the Poughkeepsie and City Asylums, believed that where restraint had been abolished, as in a few cases, the patients had become more violent. Hayes was sent to a policeman. As the boy was unable to find a policeman, Hayes started down Myrtle avenue, turned into an alley, and held him while one of his friends, who had been following him, beat him with a stick. Hayes' upper vest pocket of two \$10 bills, and the other then dealt Hayes a powerful blow behind the right ear, so as to stun him, and, as he was unable to rise, caused him to fall. Hayes then crawled himself to pursue them, they walked leisurely to the corner and took a cab.

Henry Buckley of 88 Carlton avenue, a nineteen-year-old boy, said he was bound in a crib, and Hayes was sent to a policeman. As the boy was unable to find a policeman, Hayes started down Myrtle avenue, turned into an alley, and held him while one of his friends, who had been following him, beat him with a stick. Hayes' upper vest pocket of two \$10 bills, and the other then dealt Hayes a powerful blow behind the right ear, so as to stun him, and, as he was unable to rise, caused him to fall. Hayes then crawled himself to pursue them, they walked leisurely to the corner and took a cab.

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